

What is claimed is:

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*A*

1. A modified natural rubber obtained by a modification of a deproteinized natural rubber having a nitrogen content of less than 0.10 % by weight.
2. The modified natural rubber of claim 1, wherein said deproteinized natural rubber has a nitrogen content of less than 0.05 % by weight.
3. The modified natural rubber of claim 1, wherein said deproteinized natural rubber having a nitrogen content of less than 0.02 % by weight.
4. The modified natural rubber of claim 1, wherein said deproteinized natural rubber does not give an absorption at  $3280\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the infrared spectrum.
5. The modified natural rubber of claim 1, wherein said modification is carried out by graft copolymerizing said deproteinized natural rubber with an organic compound having an unsaturated bond.
6. The modified natural rubber of claim 5, wherein said organic compound having an unsaturated bond is selected from methacrylic acid, acrylic acid, methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate and 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, acrylonitrile, vinyl acetate, styrene, acrylamide and vinylpyrrolidone.
7. The modified natural rubber of claim 1, wherein said modification is carried out by epoxidizing said deproteinized natural rubber with a peracid.

8. The modified natural rubber of claim 7, wherein said peracid is selected from perbenzoic acid, peracetic acid, performic acid, perphthalic acid, perpropionic acid, trifluoroperacetic acid and perbutyric acid.

9. A process for improving the graft ratio and the graft efficiency of a graft-copolymerized natural rubber which comprises deproteinizing natural rubber and then graft-copolymerizing the natural rubber.

10. A process for improving the epoxidation ratio of an epoxidized natural rubber which comprises deproteinizing natural rubber and then epoxidizing the natural rubber.

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